

Coastal Condition Assessment of Hurricane Katrina Impacts in the Northern Gulf of Mexico.

Current, known federal and state responses.

All parties have been contacted and are aware of the activities listed. A verbal agreement has been made for those without existing MOU's or the like, to share data in order to conduct an overall assessment of the resource. Each group is capable of conducting an assessment of their individual areas of study.

Lake Pontchartrain:

USGS Baton Rouge will be sampling 12 stations from the "Chef Mentor Canal" & "Rigoles" to the southern portion of the lake. The design is targeting the pumping stations and the area of expected flow of the discharge. They will be sampling water for pathogens, targeted contaminants, nutrients, BOD and COD. Sediments will be sampled for contaminants. The State of Louisiana DEQ will be sampling 24 sites for water quality only, targeting the quality of the lake as a whole.

Lake Borgne and Mississippi Sound:

EPA/ORD/NHEERL and NOAA NCCOS (Charleston) will be conducting a joint sampling of 26 sites from Lake Borgne, LA to Pascagoula, MS. The state of Alabama Dept of Environmental Management (ADEM) will sample 4 sites in the sound within AL state waters. Stations will be sampled for water for dissolved organic and inorganic contaminants, oil& grease, pathogens, nutrients, microtox, and chlorophyll a. Sediments will also be collected for determination of contaminant concentrations and for the identification and enumeration of infaunal organisms.

Mississippi River mouth and Western Gulf Area:

EPA/ORD/NHEERL will be conducting their quarterly hypoxia survey and will add sampling assessment parameters to 10 of their existing stations. Stations will be sampled for water for dissolved organic and inorganic contaminants, oil& grease, pathogens, nutrients, and chlorophyll a. Sediments will also be collected for determination of contaminant concentrations.

Gulf Area East of Mississippi River and offshore of barrier islands:

NOAA/NMFS/Galveston-Seattle is currently conducting a cruise to assess fisheries populations and contaminants. A currently unknown number of sites are being sampled for tissue and sediment contaminants. They are planning a cruise on a smaller vessel to sample fish and sediments for contaminants from Dauphin Island to Lake Borgne.

Mississippi Embayments discharging into MS Sound:

EPA Region IV is going to be conducting an assessment of all of the bays and bayous that discharge into Mississippi Sound. A composite sediment sample will be collected for contaminant analysis in each system. Up to 27 stations, including the discharge point into MS Sound, will be sampled for organic and inorganic contaminants in water. The water samples will also be analyzed for pathogens, nutrients, and chl a. Pascagoula and Bay St. Louis will be targeted for dioxin analyses.

Chandeleur Sound and Oyster Fisheries:

NOAA/NCCOS will be sampling their 16 Status and Trends sites from Breton Sound through MS Sound. They will be sampling molluscs and sediments for organic and inorganic contaminants and pathogens. This will be done in partnership with LUMCON.

Mobile Bay:

ADEM is currently sampling the Mobile Bay System weekly for water quality and pathogens.